

October 24, 2022



Joseph Sageer of MVHS, Diana Stefanovich of MVCC, Jennifer Camello of RCIL, and Todd Stokes of 50 Forward Mohawk Valley were the honorees at the Pride of Workmanship Awards luncheon held Oct. 20 at the Ft. Schuyler Club. MORE / PAGE 2.

### Help out at urban tree planting

Utica Rotary Tree Planting Project will take place Saturday, Nov. 5, when Rotarians, family and friends plant trees at 26 homes throughout Utica. In preparation, the city will auger the holes on Nov. 4.

We need volunteers, pickup trucks and trailers. All volunteers will meet at the Utica Parks Department, 233 Valley View Road, at 9 a.m. Nov. 5, With enough volunteers we should be done by noon. NO RAIN DATE! Please bring gloves, rakes and shovels. Please confirm availability and equipment with Dave Jones at: davidjones0422@gmail.com.



Deadline for next newsletter (10/31) is Sunday, October 30, at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.





## **Utica Rotary presents worker awards**

by Jerry Kraus

The Rotary Club of Utica honored four local workers at its 31st annual Pride of Workmanship Awards Program during a luncheon on Thursday, October 20. at the Ft. Schuyler Club in Utica.

The 2022 recipients are:

- Jennifer Camello, self-direction program generalist with the Resource Center for Independent Living.
- Rotary Club of Utica
- **Joseph Sageer**, lead respiratory therapist with *Mohawk Valley Health System*.
- **Diana Stefanovich**, senior custodian with *Mohawk Valley Community College*.



RCIL: Award Recipient Jennifer Camello (left) with Nominator Amanda Tuthill.

"Jennifer is always willing to help wherever she is needed. She takes initiative in all things with enthusiasm including organizing and implementing team activities and boosting morale."



MVCC: Award Recipient Diana Stefanovich (left) with Nominator Michael McHarris.

"(Diana) puts in extraordinary effort to ensure every detail is addressed for all events, big and small. She exudes positivity and takes pride in her work developing relationships with colleagues and students."

• Todd Stokes, case manager with 50 Forward Mohawk Valley.

"We are inspired by these area employees who are nominated by their managers or co-workers," Rotary

# Pride of Workmanship

Club President **Tina Pavlot** said. "They are recognized and honored for going above and beyond their normal work duties to make an impact at work and in our community."

Pride of Workmanship Committee Chair **Roxanne Mutchler** noted that the awards program comes after a request for nominations from area businesses. The committee reviews the nominations to determine the top area employees deserving of the award.



MVHS: Award Recipient Joseph Sageer (left) with Nominator Michelle McGauley.

"Lauded as a true hero and symbol of kindness and humanity, (Joseph's) expert skills and calm demeanor make him the person you want by your side in a critical situation.."



**50 FORWARD: Award Recipient Todd Stokes** (right) with Nominator Kelly Walters.

"Todd's clients are homeless individuals over the age of 55. Daily he assists them with services that help them not only get into permanent housing but to maintain it by helping with other issues of support needed.."

#### 'Do it once. Do it well. Build a better America.'

People are our greatest asset. The Pride of Workmanship Award program provides the means to recognize, outside the workplace, employees who have made that extra effort in their vocation. The award winners are people who are honest and caring, and who contribute substantially to the success of their businesses and firms. The program provides all employers with the opportunity, through Rotary, of recognizing the effort and contributions of employees who consistently achieve an overall high personal standard of work performance.

The Pride of Workmanship Award idea originated in Australia in 1975 at a Rotary District Assembly meeting. It was suggested that something should be organized that would encourage more pride by Australians in their vocation. From this suggestion and discussion the theme was born... "Pride of Workmanship – Do it once. Do it well. Build a better Australia." Further discussion led to the suggestion of holding a Pride of Workmanship Night with the cooperation of the local business community.

Employers would nominate employees who were deserving of this honor.

With the success of the first presentation of the Pride of Workmanship Award in April 1976, the program grew by leaps and bounds to encompass all of Australia and other countries in the South Pacific.

The program found its way to the United States by way of a foreign exchange student who returned to her home club in Moravia after spending a year in Australia. The success of the program in Moravia inspired their club to plan the promotion of the project throughout the Rotary Clubs in the United States and Canada. The Utica Rotary Club became the third Rotary Club in the United States to present the Pride of Workmanship Awards and did so on June 14, 1991.

The Pride of Workmanship Award program was conceived to embrace all aspects of work performance and ethics at all working levels in the community. The award recognizes individuals whose work performance and workmanship are consistently of a high standard.



#### We need children's bedding for Nov. 3rd meeting

On November 3, our program meeting will feature the Utica chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). SHP is a national nonprofit organization that builds and delivers beds to children in need of a bed and a safe place to sleep.

SHP-Utica needs help. They have a wait list of 200 beds and are trying to get as many of these kids in beds before the real cold sets in. They are running really

low on bedding, especially bedding for young boys and girls ages 3 to 8. Twin-sized comforters, sheets, and blankets are needed as well as pillows.

Let's show our support for SHP and the children of Utica by collecting as many bedding sets (twin-sized sheet set, blanket, comforter) as possible to present to SHP when they come to speak on November 3. All bedding must be new and twin-sized.

Please bring the bedding to the program meeting, drop off with President Tina Pavlot at M&T Bank at Consumer Square, New Hartford, or contact Michelle Brandstadt at fillableformdesigns@gmail.com for pickup.

Here's the challenge: For every complete bedding set collected, Michelle will donate a pillow. Let her know what you plan to donate, and she will track the bedding sets collected.

#### **College student internships**

Paid internships are being offered to area college students by the Rotary Club of Utica. Applications are being accepted now for the spring and fall academic semesters of 2022-23. Deadline for applying is Nov. 1, 2022. Apply online at uticarotary.org (click on Rotaract).

Through paid internships with local businesses, students will be able to apply their academic knowledge in a professional setting and gain skills that will be invaluable to their future careers. In addition, area businesses will be able to evaluate students for possible future employment.

If your business would like to particpate, please contact: internship@uticarotaryclub.org





#### **Calendar of Events**

Social | Pin Down Polio | 5-7 p.m. 10/26 **VISTA Bowling Center** 

11/05 **Service | Urban Tree Planting** 

**Program | Sleep in Heavenly Peace** 11/03 Noon, Mid-York Library System

9 a.m., Utica Parks Dept.